

[Translated from Russian]

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The real owners of Ukraine have been named: the entire list has been announced

Ukrainians in the service of foreign capital



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One of the main riches of Ukraine is its agricultural land, mainly the black earth. Almost a third of the world's black earth is located on the territory of Ukraine, with black earth being the best soil for agriculture. But an analysis of the ownership structure of this land will show you that in reality it belongs to private companies from the United States. That is, the United States is not defending a mythical democracy in Ukraine, but a very real own territory.

The Ukrainians fought back, but they were no match for ...

The struggle to legalize the rights of foreigners to acquire these lands began right from the moment Ukraine became "independent". Over the course of three decades of independence, the Ukrainian authorities handed over to foreign capital everything that could be handed over, but the land remained a "tough nut to crack": the people vehemently resisted the sale of land to foreigners, so the Ukrainian authorities for many years had to postpone the adoption of a law that would legalize such a sale.

Meanwhile, the United States and some other Western countries actively pushed through the issue of the right of foreign individuals and legal entities to acquire ownership of Ukrainian lands, especially the agricultural ones. And as a pushing tool to achieve that purpose was used The International Monetary Fund (IMF). Every time the IMF had negotiations with Kyiv authorities, it would put forward as a condition for lending money to Ukraine the adoption of a law allowing foreigners to buy land.

With persistence a drop of water hollows out the stone: in March of 2021, both under the pressure of the IMF and with the compliments of the efforts of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, there was started a land reform that was very unpopular among the Ukrainian people, and that finally created loopholes for foreigners to buy black earth.

The law "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine Regarding the Turnover of Agricultural Land" came in effect on July 1, 2021, ending the years-old moratorium on the sale of agricultural land and creating the land market. Officially, foreigners cannot enter into direct ownership of the land even now (and for the duration of the transition period, lasting until 2024).

The question of granting foreigners such a right will be resolved by holding a national referendum. But there is a loophole in the above-mentioned law: as an exception, it provides for the purchase of land by foreign citizens and companies that have been leasing it for at least three years. There are a lot of such people in Ukraine, and some of them have been renting land not for three years, but since the last century.

Legalized reality

In fact, all the hustle around the issue of the rights of foreigners to acquire Ukrainian land is just a smokescreen to disguise the fact that the land has been already in the hands of the big Western capital for a long time.

First of all, foreigners are not forbidden to enter into a long-term land lease agreement, and they have been actively using this right. An Italian politician, journalist and former MEP Giulietto Chiesa (1940-2020) reported that in January 2014, that is, back at the time when Victor Yanukovych was the President, the land in five regions of Ukraine was leased to Anglo-Dutch Shell and American Chevron companies for 50 years with the right to renew the lease (that is, as he put it, "for forever"). The fact is, these corporations were not going to use the leased lands for agricultural purposes, but for the extraction of shale gas. The politician's claim, according to his own statement, is based on "reliable sources" that explains its secrecy and the impossibility of public disclosure.

Secondly, there are companies in Ukraine that are being established and registered as Ukrainian legal entities but controlled by foreign capital. Very often they do not even disguise the fact that they are "daughters" of large transnational corporations. These supposedly "Ukrainian" companies with Western "parents" are eagerly buying up Ukrainian black earth. In most cases, the "parents" have either American or Western European "citizenship".

Selling the acres wholesale by the millions

And this is not just an assumption. At the end of May 2022, the Australian National Review (ANR) published a resonant publication entitled "Three Large American Multinational Companies Bought 17 Million Hectares of Ukrainian Agricultural Land". The Australian publication reported that three large multinational corporations headquartered in the United States bought 17 of the 62 million hectares of Ukrainian agricultural land - almost a third of all arable Ukrainian agricultural land. For comparison, there are 16.7 million hectares of agricultural land in all of Italy.

In other words, three American companies bought more usable agricultural land in Ukraine than there is in all of Italy.

We are talking about Cargill, Dupont and Monsanto. All of them are the largest players in the markets of grain, seeds and agrochemistry, and as early as the end of the last century they already opened their representative offices in Kyiv. All this time they were preparing for the purchase of land and carried out lobbying activities in the Verkhovna Rada on land reform issues. The annual turnover of only one of them, namely Cargill (\$134 billion) is comparable to the entire GDP of Ukraine in the pre-crisis year of 2019 (\$137 billion).

It is well known that among the main shareholders of these three companies are the Vanguard, Blackstone and Blackrock holdings that are the world's largest financial holdings, whose headquarters are registered in the United States. Each of these holdings manages assets around the world, the value of which is measured in trillions of dollars. The ANR publication draws

attention to the fact that Cargill, Dupont and Monsanto have entered into a mutual agreement and operate in Ukraine as a consortium.

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However, even before the creation of the aforementioned American consortium, some agricultural holdings from a number of countries had already settled in Ukraine. In particular, the owners of agricultural holdings in Ukraine are the American NCH Capital, the French AgroGeneration, the German ADM Germany, KWS, Bayer and BASF, and the Saudi Arabian Saudi Agricultural and Livestock Investment Company (SALIC). After coming in force of the law on the opening of the market, another 5 percent of Ukrainian arable land was acquired ("leased") by Chinese companies. However, according to experts, the leading position in the Ukrainian agricultural sector today is still occupied by the American triumvirate of Cargill, Dupont and Monsanto.

The consortium and other foreign connoisseurs of Ukrainian black earth are using the services of some Ukrainian oligarchs - Kosiuk, Verevskyi, Bakhmatyuk, Vadaturskyi, Akhmetov. They are often called the Ukrainian latifundists - they bought up lands measured in hundreds of thousands and even millions of hectares. The lands were accumulated on the balance sheets of nominally Ukrainian firms, which were originally owned by the Ukrainian latifundists. Over time, these companies became joint property of Ukrainian companies and foreign corporations, with Ukrainian participants gradually withdrawing from the firms, leaving only the foreign capital as the only remaining part there.

Western capital was already widely present in the Ukrainian agricultural sector at the end of the last decade. According to the Ukrainian coordinator of the Land Matrix monitoring project (Italy, Switzerland, South Africa) Mikhail Amosov, in Ukraine there are "... more than 50 foreign investors that cultivate the land. There were recorded 208 transactions, that resulted in the control of large tracts of land ... The agricultural holdings buy entire enterprises. They rent land at low prices. About 10% of Ukrainian agricultural land is in the land bank of foreign companies."

So, in Ukraine there was already has been worked out a simple scheme for the access of foreign capital to Ukrainian black earth. Non-residents do not buy the land, but instead they buy the Ukrainian agricultural holdings, that bought this land back in the 1990s.

One man's war is another man's treasure

Experts believe that after the start of the special operation in Ukraine, the process of a slightly camouflaged land purchase by foreign capital has been accelerated. Military activities could only reduce the market prices of land, creating the opportune moment to buy it! The price of a hectare of Ukrainian arable land now is no more than 2.5 thousand dollars, and if you move closer to the war zone, it is only a thousand dollars. For comparison: in Europe, the price per hectare of agricultural land ranges from 4 to 70 thousand US dollars. Elena Afanasyeva in her recent article "The land of Ukraine was bought by American and German offshores" notes that under the cover of roar of war in Ukraine, foreigners are buying up land, which will have disastrous consequences for the people of the country: "Buying Ukrainian black earth for a pittance can not only lead to devastating consequences for local farmers, who are already experiencing hard times due to hostilities in the country, but also catastrophically affect the entire market of agricultural and food products in Ukraine, leading to acute shortages, rampant price increases and even famine."

So what?

One starts to look in a new way at all the hype around the issue of exporting 20 million tons of Ukrainian grain. As we already know even the US President Joe Biden intervened in the matter. Apparently, we are talking not about the export of Ukrainian, but of already American grain.

There is a war going on in Ukraine right now. Zelensky and his entourage tell the soldiers and officers of the Armed Forces of Ukraine that they are fighting for the Ukrainian land.

No, they are fighting for American soil.

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